

# **WEBB COUNTY PRESS RELEASE**

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**February 7, 2003**

For immediate release:

During the February 10, 2003 Webb County Commissioners Court meeting, members of the Court will listen to a presentation by International Vapor Power Corporation, a Canadian company, on the possible establishment of a commercial scale profit making plant in Webb County that converts used tires, batteries, garbage, municipal solid waste, and other organic and inorganic materials into electric power and distilled potable water. The proposed plant will produce 80 net Mega Watts which is the equivalent of powering 80,000 homes for as long as the plant is in production. Conversion of substances into electric power and clean water is accomplished with no hazardous emissions release. In its operation, the plant will not release any toxic or dangerous chemicals into the environment and will operate at normal atmospheric pressure.

According to Judge Bruni, "Webb County has the distinct opportunity to join efforts with International Vapor Power Corporation to create a power plant that will profoundly benefit this community. The plant will use high temperature plasma pyrolysis to convert substances into electric power and distilled water. Although the technology

for this process is not new, the manner of its application in Webb County will be the first in the world, and certainly, state of the art. The plant is also designed to function without threat of harm to the environment. It will serve to clean up the environment by revolutionizing the waste disposal industry, and obviating the need for landfills. In fact, existing landfills may even be excavated and turned into positive energy with this plant. If the Court decides to pass a resolution to create a joint venture between Webb County and International Vapor Power Corporation, it will be taking a positive step for the future of Webb County by helping create this unique and innovative process that will deliver electric power, clean water, and help maintain our environment.”

The Webb County Commissioners Court will also consider passing a resolution to create a Rural Rail Transportation District. During the last meeting, the Commissioners Court listened to a presentation by Rail District Advisors, Inc. on Rural Rail Transportation Districts. It was explained that Rural Rail Transportation Districts are local governmental entities created by a County Commissioners Court adoption of a resolution. A rail district is a non-taxing authority and excludes the County from liability. Judge Bruni believes that the creation of a Rural Rail Transportation District will promote economic development in Webb County. A district may preserve rail infrastructure and develop rail facilities in an effort to bring more industry into Webb County.

According to Judge Bruni, “this rail district will allow Webb County to capitalize on a unique development that is presently ongoing in South Texas. Webb County with its rail district will form an alliance with Bexar and Nueces Counties, each of which have rail districts, and together we will have a Golden Trade Triangle—Nueces with its

maritime, Webb with its international port and Bexar with its huge population base. Among other things, the Trade Triangle would use transportation assets to alleviate truck gridlock in Laredo, and provide a regional approach to economic development that through improved logistics, would strengthen a possible emerging industrial region of South Texas and Northern Mexico. The Golden Trade Triangle could be marketed as a single package providing customs service, rail transportation, and a seaport with docking services all at once. The commercial opportunity with trade that the Golden Triangle will afford Webb County is truly a golden opportunity. For example, the 1.8 billion dollar San Antonio Toyota plant which is expected to manufacture 150,000 full-size pick-up trucks a year will be depending on the Bexar County Rail District as a second railroad carrier. This development will bring volumes of additional commercial traffic through the County of Webb. The Webb County Rail District will, in turn, serve as a main conduit for this commercial expansion. In addition, with the rail district, Webb County will be strategically placed to capitalize on the Trans Eastern Corridor which is currently being created in Mexico and which will cause, within the next 2-3 years, over one million cars a year to come through the ports of Brownsville and Webb County. The commercial implications of these developments are nothing short of profound.”

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